

Town of Locke, Star Theater
13939 River Road
Locke
Sacramento County
California

HABS No. CA-2071 D

HABS,
CAL,
34-LOCKE,
1/4 -

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. CA-2071 D

TOWN OF LOCKE
Star Theater

Location: 13939 River Road, (County Road E-13,
east side of road), Locke,
Sacramento County, California

USGS Courtland Quadrangle:
UTM Coordinates: 10:630465:4234470

Present Owner: Asian City Development Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 987
Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Present Occupant: Lower floor - Ralph Santos and Jack Molino
Upper floor - None

Present Use: Lower floor - storage
Upper floor - vacant

Significance: This building, which was built as a theater, has also
served as a gambling house, brothel and rooming house.
The large arched entranceway on the west facade is
unique in Locke.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This wooden building, with its false front, is a harmonious part of the architectural context of the street.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The rectangular, two-and-a-half story building is approximately twenty-five feet across the front by sixty-feet deep.
2. Foundation: Wooden piers and beams with concrete footings along the perimeter; raised above grade with a shallow crawl space below.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Wooden drop siding, with corner boards, painted on east and west facades only. The walls above the covered walk on the east facade are not painted. False front on west facade, with a sloping pediment in the center section, second each side.

The west front has been filled in with wooden siding. Extending almost the entire width of the building is a wooden segmental arch supported by a tapered engaged pilaster. Recessed back slightly is another engaged pilaster. A continuous band and a simple wood base unite the pilasters. The wooden corbeled arch is denticulated at each corbel and there is a wooden architrave extending across the tops of the pilasters, at the spring line. The top of the arch has a sheet metal covering. On the soffit of the arch are twenty single porcelain electric light sockets, second two sockets above the windows on the west facade. The false front has fading lettering that has been painted on reading "Star Theatre" and four Chinese characters, two on each side which translated mean "Star Movie House". Between the arch and the architrave is painted, in black, the word "WELCOME" with a large five point star in the center above it and a smaller five point star on each side. There is a tapered wooden flag pole with a metal ball at the top, in the center of, and on top, of the false front.

4. Structural system, framing: Wooden frame construction.
5. Porches, stoops, balconies: There is a concrete sidewalk extending across the west facade of the building and one concrete step extending between pilasters. A wooden balcony has previously extended from each side of the building on the north and south facades, the entire length of the building on the north and about one-third the way on the south. The ends of the joists are exposed on the face of the building where they have been sawed off. A part of the balcony framing is still in fact, near the west front, on each side. On the south side there are vertical wooden boards enclosing the balcony, but no roof or floor boards, only the floor framing. On the north side, the floor framing is intact, but no flooring and there are wooden posts that supported the floor extending down to an exterior stairway in the alleyway between buildings. There is a fragment of the wooden balustrade remaining with hand rail and square balusters. The balcony extending over the concrete sidewalk on the east facade has been enclosed. It is supported by four wooden posts on concrete piers, forming the covered walk. The soffit is wooden beaded boards and the roofing on the shed roof is roll asphalt. There is a simple wood block cap at the top of each post.
6. Chimneys: There is a metal flue on the south facade, projecting from the wall, just below the second floor level, and extending up the face of the wall above the eave. There is a similar metal flue on the north facade.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The entrance on the west facade, just off center, leads into a vestibule. The wooden door has one panel in the lower section below a single glass panel. The glass panel has heavy hail screening across it. There is a wooden surround and sill, the door being raised above the floor level approximately six

inches. There is a doorway on the north facade, second level that opened onto the balcony. The wooden door has five horizontal panels, wooden surrounds and sill. There is a double doorway in the center of the east facade, within a larger wooden framed opening. On each side of the doorway there are vertical beaded boards extending from the doorway to the wooden surrounds of the larger opening. The wooden doors have four panels, wooden astragal, wooden surround and sill. Across the top surround of the larger opening are five porcelain electric light sockets. There are two wooden batten doors on the south facade with wooden surround and sill, and two similar openings on the north facade, but which have been boarded up.

- b. Windows and shutters: There is a wooden window in the center of the west facade with three-over-three, double-hung sash. There are two wooden windows with six-over-six, double-hung sashes on the first floor, west facade under the concrete walk. Wooden windows in the remainder of the building have one-over-one, double-hung sashes, wooden surrounds, and some have screens. Windows on the first floor are closed-up with boards and hail screen. There is a wooden louver in the east gable.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with corrugated sheet metal covering.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Boxed cornice, narrow overhang.
- c. Dormers, cupolas: There is a wooden cupola in the center of the building that has a gable roof covered with corrugated sheet metal. The north and south side walls have wooden louvers and the east and west gable ends have wooden siding with corner boards.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: The first floor, used for storage, is inaccessible.
- b. Second floor: The entrance to the second floor is through a doorway on the west facade, which leads into a small vestibule. There is a large opening that is filled in with beaded board wooden siding which was probably the ticket window. There is a doorway in the center of the vestibule on the east wall leading down one step to a room that was probably the lobby. There is a small room on the south of the lobby that has a doorway on the south with a stairway leading up to the third floor. There is a narrow hallway down the center with three rooms on the north side and five rooms on the south side. A doorway leading up three steps to the former stage, opens into a more narrow hall which has two rooms on each side. The eastern

room on each side is the enclosed balcony above the sidewalk. The stage floor nosing is visible in the rooms and has had the opening filled in with boards.

- c. Third floor: The third floor is one large room across the entire building. At the east end there is a slight step up which indicates the top of the proscenium. There is also a change in direction of the flooring at the west end to indicate that there was a small third floor across the front only. Further indication of the center section being filled in at a later date is the fact the floor joists are not supported on the studs, but only toe-nailed into the wall paneling extending through the wall uninterrupted.
2. Flooring: Wooden narrow board flooring, some covered with linoleum.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Beaded board wooden walls and ceilings, some painted on the second floor.
4. Doorways and doors: Wooden doors with five, double-raised, horizontal panels, wooden surrounds.
5. Stairways: The enclosed wooden stairway to the third floor is a straight run, with open well at the top. There is a balustrade around the opening on the third floor. The wooden molded handrail extends from a large newel, that has been removed, along the opening to a newel at the corner, turns and ends at the wall. There are square wooden balusters.
6. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Heating: There is no heating equipment.
 - b. Plumbing: There is one modern water closet.
 - c. Lighting: Single porcelain sockets.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The building faces west on River Road and extends through to Main Street. In the narrow alleyway on the north there is a wooden stairway leading from the boardwalk on River Road down to Main Street. The open string stair has a landing approximately one third the distance up from the lower level. There is a wooden post at the third step which is braced to the building and there are two wooden rails extending from this post to the landing, across it, and continuing to the upper level. At the Main Street facade of each alleyway, there is an arched opening, the segmental arch on the north side has vertical wood paneling on the side and above it. There is an engaged pilaster on each side with a molded cap and the arch is denticulated, similar to the one on the west facade. There are five porcelain light sockets in the soffit of the arch. Above the arch, faintly painted is "STAR THEATRE-ENTRANCE". The arch on the south side is a simple segmental arch with a soffit banding below beaded board wooden

siding. The alleyway is partially covered and has a wooden floor for a short distance, ending at a wooden wall, with vertical boards, that has a doorway in it. Similar two story wooden structures are across the alleyways on each side.

Across the west front, there are five short posts in the concrete sidewalk with a railing extending between them. There is a wooden retaining wall across the front, between the building and the road. Several very large trees have been cut down in this space. There is a wooden bridge extending to the road from the stairway that leads up from Main Street.

Prepared by: John P. White
Project Supervisor
Historic American
Buildings Survey
Summer 1979

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Sacramento Housing and Redevelopment Agency, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation and the Chinese Historical Association of America. The recording project was completed during the summer of 1979 under the general direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth L. Anderson, Jr., Principal Architect; John P. White, Project Supervisor (Texas Tech University); Pamela O. Chang, Architectural Foreman (University of California, Berkeley); with student architects William F. Hand (Auburn University); Clemson Lam (University of Hawaii); Gregorv C. Tung (Yale University); and David G. Virgil (Carnegie-Mellon University), at the HABS Field Office in Sacramento, California. The drawings were edited in the HABS Washington office in January 1980 by staff architects William Graham and David Marsh. The written data was edited by staff historian Jan Cigliano during January-March 1980.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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